river Yamuna. In first phase, 27 flood protection scheme have been taken up and completed in the Yamuna basin by them to check the change in the river course. Further, change of course by rivers being a natural phenomenon known as meandering of rivers, it is neither possible nor viable to check the same in whole length of rivers. However, in selected reaches, where it is necessary to protect the important structures, townships, etc. suitable flood protection measures are taken up.

Statutory Powers to River Board Organisations

1664. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Statutory powers for River Board Organisations in the management of water resources have been opposed by certain State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) National Water Resources Council (NWRC) while deliberating the draft revised National Water Policy in its 4th Meeting held on 7th July, 2000 considered *inter alia* the provision relating to setting up of River Basin Organisations (RBOs) with statutory powers. Some of the States like Goa, Himachal Pradesh Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh had opposed the setting up of RBOs with statutory powers. In view of the divergent views expressed on this provision relating to RBOs and other provisions of the draft revised National Water policy by the members of NWRC, a Working Group under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources was constituted to examine the draft provisions. The Working Group has discussed this issue and after arriving at a near consensus, it has recommended to NWRC *inter-alia* a draft provision on setting up of RBOs without proposing the statutory/regulatory powers thereto.